

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12 DPW-01 INRE-00 EUR-25 ACDA-19

RSR-01 /139 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9554

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 5499

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR APRIL 2, 1973

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL CAN THO ON APR 2 ACTION
EMBASSY SAIGON REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0115

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINT, MARR, VS, CA, ID, HU, PL

SUBJECT: SITREP FOR APRIL 2, 1973

1. SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINS AT THE POST- TET LEVEL BUT
THE KILL RATION IS LESS FAVORABLE TO THE GVN THAN IT WAS EARLIER.
THE CANADIANS ARE TRYING TO GET REGION VI ICCS MOVING BUT THE
POLES AND HUNGARIANS ARE RESISTING. REGION VII ICCS MAY
ACCUSE THE GVN OF A VIOLATION. VC PROPAGANDA WOOS THE HOA HAO.
THE GO CONG PROVINCE CHIEF IS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR CORRUPTION.
END SUMMARY.

2. SECURITY: (A) MILITARY ACTIVITY ROSE TO 60 INCIDENTS MARCH 31
AND THEN DROPPED TO THE POST- TET AVERAGE OF 41 APRIL 1. DINH TUONG ,
WHICH WAS QUIET MOST OF THE LAST WEEK, HAD THE LARGEST NUMBER OF
INCI
DENTS

APRIL 1. MOST CASUALTIES, HOWEVER, OCCURRED IN NORTHERN KIEN PHONG
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WHERE THE GVN CONTINUES TO RESIST NVA ATTACKS IN THE HONG NGU- CAI CAI AREA. A VC/ NVA 122 MM ROCKET HIT IN THE CENTER OF TAN CHAU MARCH 12 KILLING AT LEAST SEVEN CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING 17 MORE. AN ICCS TEAM HAD JUST LEFT THE TOWN AFTER INVESTIGATING A PREVIOUS ATTACK. THE VC/ NVA ALSO SHELLS HONG NGU APRIL 1. THE RENEWED ROCKETINGS HAVE FRIGHTENED THE POPULACE OF BOTH TOWNS AND SOME HONG NGU RESIDENTS HAVE EVACUATED THE AREA WHERE MOST ROCKETS HAVE STRUCK.

(B). DURING THE WEEK OF 25-31 MARCH, RVNAF TOOK SOME OF ITS HEAVIEST CASUALTIES SINCE TET: 183 KIA, 608 WIL, 77 MIA. ON TWO DAYS RVNAF CASUALTIES EXCEEDED THOSE OF THE VC/ NVA, WHICH WERE LIGHT ALL WEEK, TOTALLING 242 KIA AND 18 CIA. THE REPORTED VC/ NVA WEEKLY CASUALTY RATE HAS DECLINED STEADILY SINCE MID-FEBRUARY WHILE GVN CASUALTIES HAVE RISEN SLIGHTLY. THE GVN CLAIMED A 4-1 KILL RATION DURING THE WEEK OF 11-17 FEBRUARY. LAST WEEK IT WAS 1.3-1.

(C). ANALYSIS OF KIEN HOA POST- CEASEFIRE INCIDENTS SHOWS 60 PERCENT OF THE 709 INCIDENTS AND 50 PERCENT OF THE 870 GVN CASUALTIES OCCURRED IN TRUC GIANG AND GIONG TROM DISTRICTS WHERE THE GVN BEGAN BUILDING OUTPOSTS IN VC BASE AREA 490 IN MID- FEBRUARY. NO MORE THAN 10-15 PERCENT OF THE INCIDENTS OCCURRED IN AREAS FULLY UNDER GVN CONTROL. THE FIGURES INDICATE THAT DURING THE FIRST 60 DAYS THE GVN CARRIED THE FIGHT TO THE VC, WHILE SUCCESSFULLY PROTECTING GVN AREAS FROM VC INCURSIONS.

3. ICCS: (A) THE REGION VI POLES AND HUNGARIANS ARE RESISTING CANADIAN EFFORTS TO GET THE REGION VI ICCS MOVING. THE COMMUNIST ICCS MEMBERS ONLY RELUCTANTLY JOINED IN THE REGION'S FIRST INVESTIGATION INTO THE MARCH 24 MY THO ROCKETING (CAN THO'S 0088) AFTER THE CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS THREATENED TO INVESTIGATE WITHOUT THEM. THEY ARE NOW FIGHTING TO DISCREDIT THE INVESTIGATION REPORT, CLAIMING THAT ROCKET FRAGMENTS WERE PLANTED. THEY HAVE EVEN ACCUSED THE CANADIAN CHAIRMAN OF LYING ABOUT HIS INITIAL OBSERVATION OF THE SITE THE DAY THE ROCKET STRUCK. THE CANADIANS, APPARENTLY PRODDED BY AMBASSADOR GAUVIN, PLAN TO URGE REGION VI TO "MAKE A NEW START" NOW THAT THE FPJMC HAS DEPARTED, ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE ENTIRE PEACEKEEPING BURDEN NOW RESTS ON THE ICCS. IF THAT APPEAL FAILS, THE CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS WILL ANNOUNCE THAT THEY WILL HENCEFORTH CONDUCT JOINT INVESTIGATIONS OF COMPLAINTS PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION.

(B). THE REGION VII CANADIAN CHIEF HAS TOLD HIS SUB- REGIONAL TEAMS TO "STICK THE GVN WITH A VIOLATION" IF THEY CATCH THE GVN VIOLATING THE TRUCE. HE SAID THAT HIS REPRESENTATIVE HAD OBSERVED

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A GVN AIRSTRIKE WHILE INVESTIGATING A ROCKETING IN TAN CHAU, CHAU DOC PROVINCE. THE CANADIAN REPORT WILL SAY THAT THE ROCKET CAME FROM " FORCES UNDER PRG CONTROL" BUT WILL ALSO NOTE THAT THE GVN AIRSTRIKES WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING THE INVESTIGATION VIOLATED THE CEASEFIRE. THE CANADIAN CHIEF HAS BEEN CONCERNED BY THE FACT THAT REGION VII HAS INVESTIGATED ONLY GVN COMPLAINTS AND WANTS TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE POLES AND HUNGARIANS ON THE COMMISSION THAT THE CANADIANS WILL CONDEMN VIOLATIONS NO MATTER WHICH SIDE COMMITS THEM.

4. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY: VC/ NVA PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS PICKED UP IN SOUTHERN KIEN PHONG IN LATE FEBRUARY CARRY TWO MAIN THEMES. TERRITORIAL FORCES ARE URGED TO QUIT THE FIGHT AND DESERT THE THIEU REGIME WHICH IS TRYING TO CONTINUE THE WAR DESPITE THE AMERICAN DEFEAT. ANOTHER TYPE OF LEAFLET, SUPPOSEDLY SIGNED BY A FRIEND OF HOA HAO FOUNDER, HUYNH PHU SO, PRAISES THE HOA HAO, NOTES THEY HAVE BEEN " TRICKED" INTO " CARRYING AMERICAN RIFLES," AND URGES THEM TO WELCOME THE VICTORIOUS LIBERATION FORCES.

5. GVN ACTIVITIES: (A). LT. GEN. NGUYEN VAN HIEU, THE VICE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR, IS REPORTEDLY CHECKING ON GO CONG PROVINCE CHIEF, COL. TRAN TRONG NGHIA, FOR ALLEGED CORRUPTION. CHARGES OF TAKING KICKBACKS ON CONTRACTS AND DRAFT DEFERRMENT BRIBES WERE BROUGHT BY FIVE GVN MILITARY OFFICERS AND THREE CIVILIANS, INCLUDING TWO KIEN HOA LOWER HOUSE DEPUTIES AND A GO CONG PROVINCE COUNCIL MEMBER. NGHIA IS REPORTEDLY WELL CONNECTED IN SAIGON, BUT ENJOYS NO SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH MR IV COMMANDER MGEN NGHI. VIETNAMESE NEWSPAPERS ACCUSED NGHIA OF COLLECTING KICKBACKS LAST FALL.

(B) BA XUYEN DEPUTY SEC

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